

## INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES, AUSTRALIA, MARCH 1985

PHONE INQUIRIES

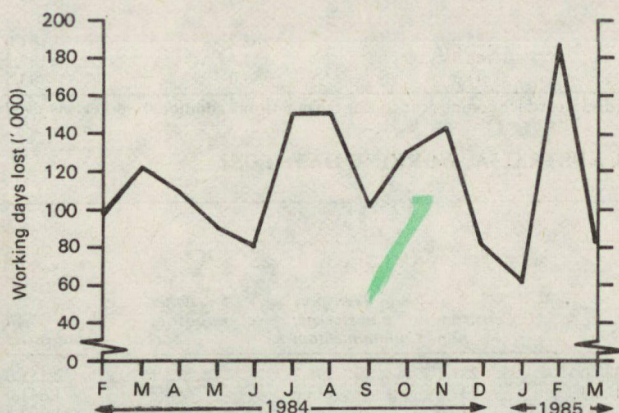
for more information about these statistics—contact Mr Michael Koukoulas on Canberra (062) 52 6561 or any of our State offices.

other inquiries including copies of publications—contact Information Services on Canberra (062) 52 6627 or in any of our State offices.

MAIL INQUIRIES

write to Information Services, ABS, P.O. Box 10, Belconnen, A.C.T. 2616 or any of our State offices.

### MAIN FEATURES



In March 1985, 83,500 working days were lost by 48,000 workers in 165 disputes. In the 12 months ended March 1985 1,379,200 working days were lost compared with 1,508,500 and 1,795,700 working days lost in the 12 months ended March 1984 and March 1983 respectively.

NOTE: The figures for February and March 1985 include working days directly lost by Queensland electricity generation employees up until the point of their dismissal. Secondary effects of this dispute and related industrial action that resulted in working days lost by employees at other establishments stood down or unable to work are not included in the figures.

### EXPLANATORY NOTES

#### Coverage

- The statistics relate only to disputes involving stoppages of work of ten man-days or more *at the establishments where the stoppages occurred*.
- The figures of working days lost relate to the losses due to industrial disputes (as defined in paragraph 4) and not to aggregate losses for the economy as a whole. Details shown in this publication refer to all disputes in progress during the reference period indicated.
- The statistics of industrial disputes are compiled mainly from data obtained from employers (both private and government) and trade unions concerning individual disputes and from reports of government authorities. Particulars of some stoppages (for example, those involving a large number of establishments) may have been estimated and the statistics therefore should be regarded as giving only a broad measure of the extent of industrial disputes (as defined).

### Definitions

- For these statistics an *industrial dispute* is defined as a withdrawal from work by a group of employees or a refusal by an employer or a number of employers to permit some or all of their employees to work, each withdrawal or refusal being made in order to enforce a demand, to resist a demand, or to express a grievance.
- Workers involved* include workers directly and indirectly involved in disputes. Workers indirectly involved are those thrown out of work at the establishments where the stoppages occurred, but who are not themselves parties to the dispute.
- Differences between monthly and annual totals of workers involved can occur due to temporary cessations of stoppages that resume in subsequent months. Workers re-involved in this type of dispute are included in the monthly totals.
- Working days lost* refer to man-days lost by workers directly and indirectly involved in the dispute and figures are generally as reported by parties to the dispute. For some disputes working days lost are estimated on the basis of the number of workers involved and the duration of the dispute.
- Working days lost per 1,000 employees* have been compiled from those lost by workers directly and indirectly involved in disputes involving stoppages of work of ten man-days or more in the establishments where the stoppages occurred. Working days lost in agriculture, etc. and in private households employing staff have been *excluded* from Tables 4 and 5 but *included* in Tables 1 to 3.
- The estimates of employees are obtained from the Labour Force survey.

### Other ABS publications

- Users may also wish to refer to the following publications:

*Industrial Disputes, Australia* (6322.0)—issued annually, contains more detailed information including statistics on the cause, method of settlement and duration of industrial disputes.

*Labour Statistics, Australia, 1983* (6101.0) (\$6.10, \$7.30 incl. postage)

*The Labour Force, Australia* (6203.0)—issued monthly (\$1.10, \$1.90 incl. postage)

- Current publications produced by the ABS are listed in the *Catalogue of Publications, Australia* (1101.0). The ABS also issues, on Tuesdays and Fridays, a *Publications Advice* (1105.0) which lists publications to be released in the next few days. The Catalogue and Publications Advice are available from any ABS office.

### Symbols and other usages

r revised

- Where figures have been rounded, discrepancies may occur between sums of the component items and totals.

R.J. CAMERON  
Australian Statistician



TABLE 1. INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES : AUSTRALIA

Period	Number of disputes		Workers involved ('000)		Working days lost ('000)
	Commenced in period	Total(a)	Newly involved(b)	Total(a)	
1982	2,045	2,060	691.3	722.9	2,158.0
1983	1,779	1,787	453.0	470.5	1,641.4
1984	r1,955	r1,962	r548.2	r557.4	r1,302.5
Twelve months ended—					
March 1983	1,917	1,950	620.9	647.4	1,795.7
1984	1,807	1,826	439.0	464.0	1,508.5
1985	1,921	1,942	575.6	583.0	1,379.2
1984—					
April	112	133	21.4	27.9	110.2
May	163	182	29.2	35.1	91.6
June	143	164	36.6	39.3	80.1
July	r192	r207	r69.1	r71.4	r153.2
August	r196	233	49.0	54.3	153.6
September	184	210	r31.8	r49.1	101.6
October	199	218	74.1	76.9	r134.0
November	206	228	94.1	99.8	143.8
December	r108	r134	56.7	71.4	79.5
1985—					
January	r111	r126	r25.5	r42.7	r61.0
February	r160	r188	r46.5	r51.4	r187.2
March	147	165	41.5	48.0	83.5

(a) Refers to all disputes in progress during the period. (b) Comprises workers involved in disputes which commenced during the month and additional workers involved in disputes which continued from the previous month.

TABLE 2. INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES : INDUSTRIES, AUSTRALIA, WORKING DAYS LOST ('000)

Period	Manufacturing							
	Mining		Metal products, machinery and equipment	Other	Construction	Transport and storage; Communication	Other industries (a)	All industries
	Coal	Other						
1982	528.8	157.1	241.8	333.0	231.1	296.2	373.1	2,158.0
1983	122.8	194.7	157.6	120.7	337.2	213.6	494.8	1,641.4
1984	131.1	r193.2	r144.8	r249.3	116.3	145.7	r322.1	r1,302.5
Twelve months ended—								
March 1983	152.6	138.6	255.6	311.6	256.4	326.9	354.1	1,795.7
1984	113.4	198.7	121.5	153.4	275.3	141.4	504.8	1,508.5
1985	236.1	187.9	158.5	208.9	115.0	176.8	296.0	1,379.2
1984—								
April	4.1	56.1	9.4	14.5	15.1	4.3	6.7	110.2
May	7.6	34.1	7.2	28.0	4.6	6.2	3.9	91.6
June	8.0	5.0	8.0	19.9	3.8	2.6	32.8	80.1
July	10.0	r13.8	16.8	30.4	10.9	6.3	65.0	r153.2
August	17.5	17.6	10.9	26.9	10.0	53.7	17.1	153.6
September	15.0	14.4	14.4	19.0	8.5	23.8	6.5	101.6
October	9.6	13.6	r25.9	27.6	30.0	11.0	16.2	r134.0
November	24.0	6.9	20.8	19.0	8.1	17.5	47.4	143.8
December	9.0	4.3	r12.3	r6.4	1.2	10.5	35.8	79.5
1985—								
January	2.3	4.8	1.8	6.8	7.9	r24.4	12.9	r61.0
February	r102.8	13.1	18.2	4.8	6.0	r8.0	34.1	r187.2
March	25.9	4.2	12.7	5.5	8.9	8.6	17.7	83.5

(a) ASIC divisions A, D, F, I to L.

TABLE 3. INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES : STATES, WORKING DAYS LOST ('000)

Period	N.S.W.	Vic.	Qld	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	Aust. (a)
1982	961.6	368.0	509.8	66.6	162.4	61.5	2,158.0
1983	801.2	257.7	135.0	87.7	270.6	67.8	1,641.4
1984	r657.9	186.4	236.0	25.2	r118.9	50.5	r1,302.5
Twelve months ended—							
March 1983	699.4	369.7	431.2	73.7	148.6	57.4	1,795.7
1984	722.3	232.0	126.7	65.3	270.0	70.1	1,508.5
1985	627.7	198.1	364.8	22.9	92.4	47.0	1,379.2
1984—							
April	54.3	14.0	16.8	1.3	8.7	14.9	110.2
May	45.1	13.2	24.5	0.5	3.0	2.4	91.6
June	24.6	7.6	41.0	0.2	3.1	1.9	80.1
July	78.3	25.4	30.1	0.1	r8.3	6.0	r153.2
August	81.4	15.0	23.5	8.6	11.0	8.8	153.6
September	45.0	21.4	22.3	0.6	9.3	2.2	101.6
October	r53.8	29.9	22.8	0.6	20.9	3.9	r134.0
November	98.2	16.1	15.0	2.8	6.7	3.4	143.8
December	32.4	17.7	11.4	3.8	6.9	2.0	79.5
1985—							
January	r38.5	r12.4	3.4	1.0	4.7	0.1	r61.0
February	r38.5	11.2	r133.2	0.4	3.0	0.7	r187.2
March	37.6	14.4	20.9	3.1	6.7	0.6	83.5

(a) Includes the Northern Territory and the Australian Capital Territory.



CHART 1. INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES : INDUSTRIES, AUSTRALIA, WORKING DAYS LOST PER THOUSAND EMPLOYEES  
TWELVE MONTHS ENDED MARCH 1984 AND 1985

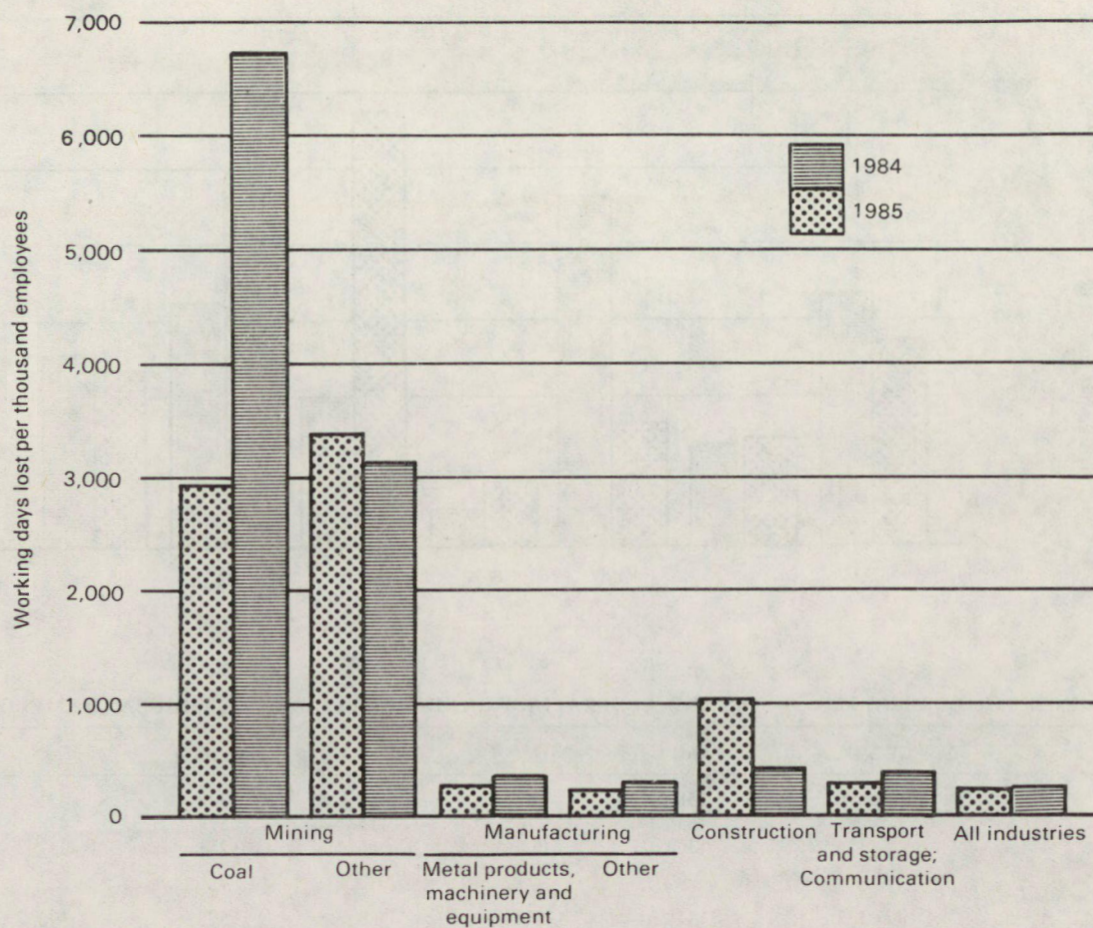


TABLE 4. INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES: INDUSTRIES, AUSTRALIA, WORKING DAYS LOST PER THOUSAND EMPLOYEES (a)

Period	Mining		Manufacturing		Construction	Transport and storage; Communication	Other industries	All industries
	Coal	Other	Metal products, machinery and equipment	Other				
1982	14,645	2,686	471	505	768	688	84	392
1983	3,223	3,375	353	186	1,269	485	42	249
1984	3,543	3,286	327	387	427	335	94	245
Twelve months ended—								
March 1984	2,929	3,390	275	238	1,049	321	66	236
1985	6,726	3,131	357	325	410	405	85	258

(a) Excludes agriculture, etc. and private households employing staff.



CHART 2. INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES: STATES AND AUSTRALIA, WORKING DAYS LOST PER THOUSAND EMPLOYEES, TWELVE MONTHS ENDED MARCH 1984 AND 1985

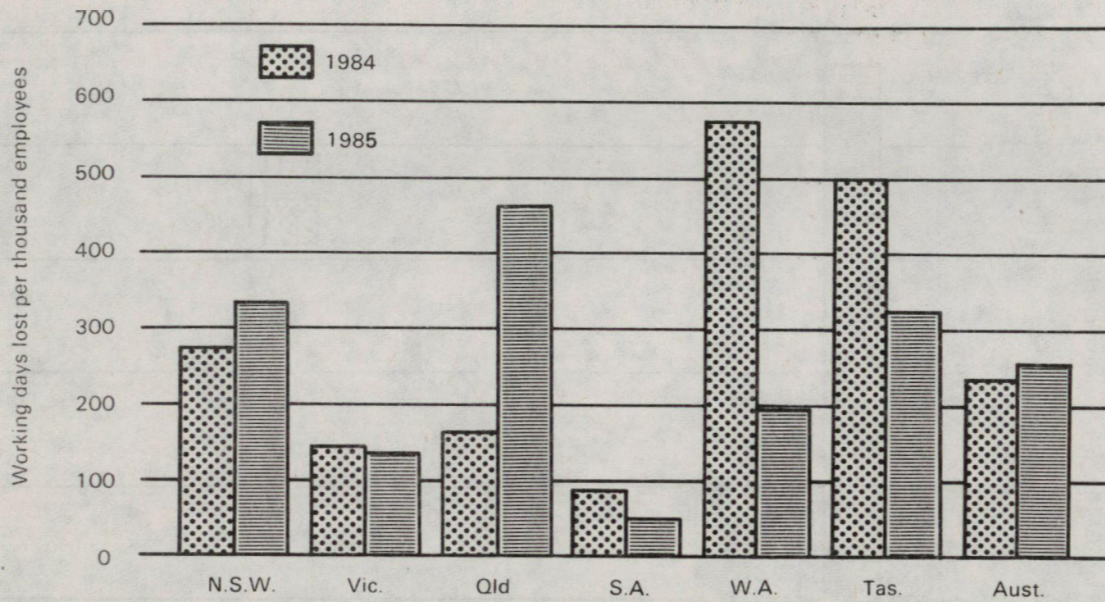


TABLE 5. INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES: STATES AND AUSTRALIA, WORKING DAYS LOST PER THOUSAND EMPLOYEES(a)

Period	N.S.W.	Vic.	Qld	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	Aust.(b)
1982	476	258	660	101	348	431	392
1983	287	163	176	115	577	478	249
1984	355	130	300	56	251	352	245
Twelve months ended—							
March 1984	273	147	164	88	575	500	236
1985	335	137	463	50	193	324	258

(a) Excludes agriculture, etc. and private households employing staff. (b) Includes the Northern Territory and the Australian Capital Territory.